

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (canceled).

2 (previously presented). The imaging system of claim 40 wherein said object is a substantially flat document.

3 (original). The imaging system of claim 2 wherein said backing is a cover and is substantially flat and is in face-to-face relationship with said object.

4 (previously presented). The imaging system of claim 3 wherein said cover has a background color that covers a major portion of said cover.

5 (previously presented). The imaging system of claim 4 wherein said imaging system is capable of determining a plurality of boundaries of said object.

6 (previously presented). The imaging system of claim 5 wherein said imaging system is capable of determining four boundaries of said object.

7 (original). The imaging system of claim 5 wherein said imaging device has a flat surface supporting said object.

8 (original). The imaging system of claim 7 wherein said object is paper.

9 (previously presented). The imaging system of claim 40 wherein said imaging system converts a first color space of an image obtained from sensing said object to a second color space where the luminance of said image is enhanced over the first color space for determining said at least one boundary of said object.

10 (original). The imaging system of claim 9 wherein said first color space includes a plurality of dimensions and said second color space includes fewer dimensions than said first color space.

11 (original). The imaging system of claim 10 wherein said first color space is red, green, and blue, and said second color space is luminance.

12 (previously presented). The imaging system of claim 40 wherein said imaging system increases the differences of luminance values in the range of likely document edge values.

13 (original). The imaging system of claim 12 wherein said imaging system converts a first color space of an image obtained from sensing said object to a second color space where the luminance of said image is enhanced over the first color space when determining said at least one boundary of said object.

14 (previously presented). The imaging system of claim 40 wherein an image obtained from sensing said object has a plurality of horizontal rows of pixels vertically aligned with respect to each other, and said imaging system groups said horizontal rows of pixels into a plurality of vertically contiguous groups, and said imaging system computes a statistical measure in a direction transverse to said horizontal row of pixels, using said statistical measure when detecting said boundary region.

15 (previously presented). The imaging system of claim 40 wherein an image obtained from sensing said object has a plurality of vertical columns of pixels horizontally aligned with each other, and said imaging system groups said vertical columns of pixels into a plurality of horizontally contiguous groups, and said imaging system computes a statistical measure in a direction transverse to said vertical column of pixels, using said statistical measure when determining said boundary region.

16 (canceled).

17 (previously presented). The imaging system of claim 14 where said imaging system detects edges using said statistical measure.

18 (previously presented). The imaging system of claim 15 where said imaging system detects edges using said statistical measure.

19 (canceled).

20 (previously presented). The imaging system of claim 17 wherein a set of statistical measures in a direction transverse to said horizontal row of pixels from a plurality of said groups are statistically processed for detecting a said boundary region.

21 (previously presented). The imaging system of claim 18 wherein a set of statistical measures in a direction transverse to said vertical column of pixels from a plurality of said groups are statistically processed for detecting a said boundary region.

22 (currently amended) The system of claim 20 wherein the statistical processing of said ~~set of~~ statistical measures emphasizes spatial regions of increased statistical measure.

23 (currently amended). The imaging system of claim 21 wherein the statistical processing of said ~~set of~~ statistical measures emphasizes spatial regions of increased statistical measure.

24 (previously presented). The imaging system of claim 20 wherein said threshold value varies with the size of the object being imaged.

25 (currently amended). The imaging system of claim 21 wherein said imaging system determines said at least one boundary of said object based upon a variable said threshold value calculated using said ~~set of~~ statistical measures.

26 (original). The imaging system of claim 24 wherein said variable threshold value is calculated based upon a percentage of the maximum observed statistical measure.

27 (original). The imaging system of claim 25 wherein said variable threshold value is calculated based upon a percentage of the maximum observed statistical measure.

28 (previously presented). The imaging system of claim 40 wherein an image obtained from sensing said object has a plurality of horizontal rows of pixels.

29 – 33 (canceled).

34 (previously presented). The imaging system of claim 40 wherein an image obtained from sensing said object has a plurality of vertical columns of pixels.

35 – 39 (canceled).

40 (currently amended). An imaging system for sensing an object, said imaging system comprising:

- (a) an image sensor;
- (b) a backing having a surface opposed to said sensor; and
- (c) an image processor having a plurality of stat buffers and that analyzes candidate edges for bounding regions and identifies edges shadows cast by a ~~shadow on an object adjacent~~ said backing as edges of a bounding region based, at least in part, on:
 - (i) a variable luminance threshold value automatically calculated using ~~a set of one or more~~ statistical measures and that causes detection of shadows candidate edges cast by a ~~shadow~~ said object on said backing; and
 - (ii) the presence of ~~candidate edges~~ detected said shadows in a contiguous plurality of stat buffers.